

Message Text

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INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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SUBJ: AUSTRIAN RELATIONS WITH IRAN AND EGYPT:

RECENT TALKS

SUMMARY: RECENT AUSTRIAN TALKS WITH IRAN AND EGYPT
HIGHLIGHT GOA POLICY OF SEEKING CLOSER RELATIONS WITH
NEAR EASTERN STATES.

1. SHAH OF IRAN PAID 6-DAY VISIT TO VIENNA JANUARY 12-
17. WHILE SHAH WAS SUPPOSEDLY IN VIENNA PRIVATELY FOR
ANNUAL MEDICAL CHECKUP, AUSTRIAN OFFICIALDOM TREATED
HIS VISIT AS IF IT WERE THE SECOND COMING. SHAH WAS
WINED AND DINED IN AN IMPRESSIVE ARRAY OF RECEPTIONS
AND DINNERS GIVEN BY THE PRESIDENT OR CHANCELLOR AT
WHICH SHAH MET EVERYBODY WHO IS ANYBODY IN AUSTRIA,
INCLUDING PROMINENT TRADE AND BUSINESS OFFICIALS.

2. WHILE THE PRESS WAS FILLED WITH MUCH OVERBLOWN
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PROSE ABOUT DRAMATIC ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS, FACT IS THAT

DISCUSSIONS WERE MAINLY ABOUT PROJECTS WHICH HAVE BEEN UNDER STUDY FOR SEVERAL YEARS SUCH AS VOEST-ALPINE'S INTEREST IN PARTICIPATION IN A CHEMICAL PLANT IN IRAN (VIENNA'S A-393, AUG. 9, 1974). ONLY CONCRETE RESULT WE ARE AWARE OF WAS DECISION BY SHAH TO SPEED UP NEGOTIATIONS FOR PURCHASE OF 500 FREIGHT CARS FROM AUSTRIAN FIRM SIMMERING-GRAZ-PAUKER. FIRM CONFIRMS THAT NEGOTIATIONS ARE WELL ALONG, ALTHOUGH NOT YET CONCLUDED. POSSIBILITY OF IRANIAN PURCHASE OF PASSENGER RAILROAD CARS DISCUSSED, BUT NO NEGOTIATIONS HAVE YET GOTTEN UNDERWAY.

3. IN SPITE OF PAUCITY OF CONCRETE COMMERCIAL RESULTS, ALL-OUT AUSTRIAN RESPONSE TO SHAH'S VISIT INDICATES IMPORTANCE GOA ATTACHES TO MAINTAINING GOOD RELATIONS WITH IRAN.

4. SIMULTANEOUS WITH SHAH'S VISIT HERE WAS VISIT OF TRADE MINISTER STARIBACHER TO EGYPT JANUARY 14-19. STARIBACHER AND EGYPTIAN MINISTER OF STATE FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION SIGNED ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT JANUARY 18, DESIGNED TO FOSTER CLOSER ECONOMIC TIES. AN AGREEMENT COVERING EGYPTIAN COTTON YARN EXPORTS TO AUSTRIA (UNDER LTA) FOR THE PERIOD 1975-77 WAS SIGNED DURING VISIT AND FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR AUSTRIAN LUMBER EXPORTS TO EGYPT WERE REVIEWED. WE UNDERSTAND FROM SOURCE IN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE THAT EGYPTIANS ASKED FOR AUSTRIAN STATE CREDITS, BUT AUSTRIANS DECLINED, INDICATING THAT CREDIT TERMS SHOULD BE ARRANGED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SPECIFIC PROJECTS AS THEY REACH STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION.
HUMES

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